

Message Text

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SUBJ: MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT -- SEP 73

BA FOR DEA

SUMMARY

SEP WAS AN ACTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MONTH IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD IN COLOMBIA. MIN OF JUSTICE CASTRO, CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE GARCIA AND TOP CUSTOMS OFFICIALS CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE INTEREST IN OVERALL COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS EFFORT AND ARE TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TO IMPROVE THIS EFFORT. EVEN GENERAL ORDONEZ AND DAS ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW SOME SIGNS OF LIFE.

CHARGE HAS APPROACHED CLOSE ADVISOR OF LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LOPEZ MICHELSEN AND HAS OBTAINED A COMMITMENT THAT LOPEZ WILL INCLUDE ANTI DRUG PROGRAM IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH IN NOV.

U S CUSTOMS INSTRUCTORS COMPLETED TWO HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TWO WEEK TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SOME 80 COLOMBIAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

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GRADUATES OF BOTH CLASSES PLAYED MAJOR ROLES IN DRUG SEIZURES

SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETING COURSE.

COLOMBIAN FAMILY WELFARE DEPT SPONSORED WELL ATTENDED THREE DAY SEMINAR ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION. PRES'S ACTION OFFICE SPONSORED TWO U S PARTI IPANTS.

NATIONAL POLICE (NP) CUSTOMS AND DAS WERE ALL ACTIVE IN SEIZURES AND ARRESTS. MONTHLY TOTAL FOR ALL GOC ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES: 20 KILOS COCAINE SEIZED, 16 TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED AND/OR DESTROYED AND 14 ARRESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING LAST TWO WEEKS OF SEP CHARGE TOOK NARCOTICS COORD FOR COURTESY CALLS ON MIN OF JUSTICE, JAIME CASTRO DAS CHIEF, GEN ORDONEZ; AND HEAD OF NP, GEN GARCIA. IN ALL THREE MTGS IT WAS APPARENT THAT TOP COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS WERE TAKING A SERIOUS AND GROWING INTEREST IN THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. MIN OF JUSTICE STATED THAT HE AND NATIONAL NARCOTICS COMMITTEE WERE CURRENTLY REVIEWING BOTH CUSTOMS AND DAS NARCOTICS ACTION PLANS. DAS PLAN HAS BEEN RETURNED FOR REFINEMENT AND HE WILL FOLLOW CLOSELY. CUSTOMS PLAN EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FINAL GOC APPROVAL VERY SHORTLY. GEN GARCIA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH EFFORTS F NP IN NARCOTICS AREA AND PROMISED INCREASED ACTIVITY IN THE FUTURE. GARCIA ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF COLOMBIA'S HOSTING A CONFERENCE OF CHIEFS OF POLICE FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (PANAMA, ECUADOR VENEZUELA BRAZIL PERU AND CHILE). CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO DISCUSS SEVERAL MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST BUT PRIMARILY AIMED AT IMPROVING JOINT NARCOTICS EFFORTS. CHARGE RESPONDED TO GEN GARCIA REQUEST THAT EMB WOULD BE HAPPY TO GIVE ALL SUPPORT POSSIBLE TO THIS INITIATIVE. MTG WITH GEN ORDONEZ VERY CORDIAL WITH GEN INDICATING CLOSER INTEREST IN THE NARCOTICS AREA THAN PREVIOUSLY NOTED. AT THE REQUEST OF EMB NARCOTICS COMMITTEE, CHARGE APPROACHED CLOSE ADVISOR OF LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, LOPEZ MICHELSEN, WITH VIEW TO HAVING LOPEZ TAKE POSITIVE STAND ON NARCOTICS ISSUE PRIOR TO HIS EXPECTED ELECTION IN APRIL. ADVISOR RECEIVED SUGGESTION ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND STATED THAT LOPEZ WOULD INCLUDE STRONG ANTI NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH DURING NOV. EMB WILL PROVIDE STATISTICAL INFO AND SUGGESTIONS TO ADVISOR. WE WILL REPEAT THIS APPROACH WITH OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

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2. U S CUSTOMS INSTRUCTORS COMPLETED TWO TWO-WEEK TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR COLOMBIAN ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS DURING SEP. APPROX 40 STUDENTS IN EACH CLASS WITH MAJORITY BEING CUSTOMS OFFICIALS BUT ALSO INCLUDING REPS OF DAS AND NP. PROGRAM COURSES EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED BY COLOMBIANS AND HIGH QUALITY AND DEDICATION OF INSTRUCTORS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY EMB. FOL COMPLETION OF FIRST COURSE THREE DAS GRADS PARTICIPATED IN ACTION THAT RESULTED IN SEIZURES SMALL AMOUNT COCAINE, SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT

OF MARIJUANA AND TWO ARRESTS. DAS OFFICIALS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE SHORTLY THEREAFTER TO EMPHASIZE THEIR ACTIVITY IN NARCOTICS FIELD. CUSTOMS GRAD OF SECOND CLASS DISCOVERED FOUR KILOS COCAINE AT ELDORADO AIRPORT IN FALSE BOTTOM OF SUITCASE DAY AFTER HIS GRADUATION. THIS ALSO RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS.

3. COLOMBIAN DEPT OF FAMILY WELFARE SPONSORED THREE DAY SEMINAR ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 150 TO 200 PERSONS ACTIVE IN THIS AREA. SEMINAR WAS VERY WELL ORGANIZED AND APPEARED TO GENERATE GREAT INTEREST IN COLOMBIANS AT PROFESSIONAL LEVEL. PRES'S SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROVIDED TWO PARTICIPANTS, DR PETER BORNE OF THE PRES'S COMMITTEE AND DR JOEL STEINBERG OF CLEVELAND. BOTH PRESENTED PAPERS ON U S EFFORTS IN DRUG PREVENTION AREA.

4. DEPUTY REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF DEA, FRANK MACOLINI VISITED BOGOTA SEP 24 TO 26. MR MACOLINI SPOKE TO THE EMB NARCOTICS COMMITTEE AND HELD A NUMBER OF MUTUALLY PROFITABLE DISCUSSIONS WITH EMB AND COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS.

5. MAJOR ARRESTS AND SEIZURES DURING THE MONTH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ON SEP 12 A NP OP WAS INITIATED WHICH INVOLVED MOBILIZATION OF 50 F2 AGENTS AND OFFICERS. THIS FORCE ENCOUNTERED MARIJUANA FIELDS IN RUGGED MOUNTAIN TERRITORY NEAR FUNDACION. AS OF SEP 27 120 ACRES, OR APPROX 14 TONS OF GROWING MARIJUANA HAD BEEN DESTROYED PLUS 34 BALES OF HARVESTED MARIJUANA WEIGHING 3400 POUNDS WHICH WERE DESTROYED. THIS OP IS CONTINUING.

IN MID SEP TWO U S CITIZENS ARRESTED IN VILLAVICENCIO AREA WHILE ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OFF IN CONVERTED B26 AIRCRAFT LOADED WITH APPROX 2000 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA. CASE STILL PENDING. CONFIDENTIAL

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AS MENTIONED ABOVE FOUR KILOS COCAINE SEIZED AT ELDORADO AIRPORT ON SEP 22. ADDITIONAL TWO AND ONE HALF KILOS COCAINE FOUND ON FEMALE PASSENGER FROM LIMA SUN SEP 30.

SEP 23 FOUR COLOMBIAN CITIZENS WERE ARRESTED AT JFK ON AVIANCA FLT 50 FROM BOGOTA. FEMALE SUBJECTS EACH IN POSSESSION OF APPROX FIVE POUNDS COCAINE CONCEALED IN BODY PACKS. TOTAL SEIZURE APPROX 15 POUNDS.

6. COLOMBIAN PRESS CONTINUING TO GIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO ALL IMPORTANT DRUG SEIZURES AND ARRESTS AND EXTENDING GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT TO OVERALL COLOMBIAN DRUG EFFORT. HOWEVER PRESS CRITICAL OVER U S JUDICIAL ACTION AGAINST AVIANCA IN CASE MENTIONED ABOVE. PRESS REACTION IS THAT PROPER

WARNING FOR ILLEGALITY OF BRINGING DRUGS INTO U S IS RESPON-
SIBILITY OF COLOMBIAN GOVT, NOT AVIANCA. WHITE

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